references be considered and that the attached PTO form 1449 be initialed and returned to Applicants.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

A. Claims 10, 11, 12, 14-16, 31, 32, 40, 41

Claims 10-12, 14-16, 31, 32, 40 and 41 stand rejected as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention. Applicants believe that there is support in the specification for these claims, but in order to expedite prosecution of this application, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

OBJECTIONS UNDER 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the claimed invention. The claims including the features not shown have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. Claims 1-7, 12, 18, 23, 25-28, 30, 32-37, 39, 41, 43

These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

B. Claims 42 and 44-46

Although the office action summary indicated that all of the pending claims stand rejected, the office action is silent as to any reason for the rejection of independent claim 38. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the allowability of claim 38, and claims 42 and 44-46 which depend from claim 38.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

A. Claims 8, 9, 13, 17, 19, 20-22, 24, 25 and 47-51

These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Gnoffo

Registration No. 44,714 Attorney for Applicant

Dated: July 24, 2002

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 (312) 321-4200